

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## NELSON P. COHEN UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF ALASKA

Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse • 222 W. 7th Avenue • Room 253 • Anchorage, AK 99513-7567 • (907) 271-5071

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## ANCHORAGE MAN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR CONSPIRACY IN RELATION TO DRUG TRAFFICKING

Anchorage, Alaska – Acting United States Attorney Karen L. Loeffler announced that on February 11, 2008, Yancy Darnell Johns, Jr., a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 60 months for his conviction of conspiracy in relation to controlled substances trafficking.

Chief United States District Court Judge John W. Sedwick imposed the sentence on Johns, 21, of 3012 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Apartment C, in Anchorage.

According to information presented to the court by Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin White, the defendant sold crack cocaine to a government informant on three separate occasions. Codefendant Vanisa Crenshaw provided assistance to the defendant by driving him to the meeting places for the drug deals, returning telephone calls made to the defendant from the government informant, and arranging her own meetings with the informant for the purpose of selling crack cocaine. The total amount of crack distributed during the course of this conspiracy was 8.7 grams. Co-defendant Crenshaw is scheduled to be sentenced in Federal Court on March 6, 2008.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge Sedwick noted the serious nature of the criminal actions in this case, as well as the defendant's history of criminal behavior.

Ms. Loeffler commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Safe Streets Task Force for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Johns. SAUSA White is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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